



Canada: New Brunswick Wind Energy Development with TransAlta Project

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Summary

On January 12, 2010, Canada's largest independent power producer TransAlta Corporation announced a \$100 million expansion of its New Brunswick wind farm, through its newly acquired 25 year power-supply contract with New Brunswick Power. The Kent Hills wind farm, which is located southwest of Moncton, N.B., will add 18 V90-3.0 MW wind turbines equivalent to 54 MW installed power to the existing facility of 96 MW. The expansion is planned to commence early this year pending regulatory and environmental approvals. The completed facility is expected to supply enough electricity for approximately 9,000 homes on a yearly basis.

Government Incentives and Requirements

Electricity generation from wind has become a very important source of energy for New Brunswick. The New Brunswick Department of Energy has committed to developing its renewable energy sector and has requested N.B. Power to increase the generation from renewable sources to 10 percent of total electrical output by 2016. In 2007, the provincial government accelerated this time frame by asking N.B. Power to move immediately with the addition of an extra 300 MW of wind power in New Brunswick in order to bring the wind power generation capacity to over 400 MW. According to the New Brunswick Energy Minister, Jack Keir, once the impact on reliability and stability of the grid operations are assessed at the end of the current projects, there will be potential for many further projects.

Market Insight

Currently New Brunswick has a wind-power installed capacity of only 195 MW, which is less than 6 percent of Canada's total wind power. However, the future is promising with the 54 MW expansion at Kent Hills, along with two other projects currently under way totaling 114 MW. This will result in almost doubled wind power capacity by year end (source: CANWEA).

The year 2009 was a record year for wind energy development in Canada with 950 MW of new capacity being installed. This was a staggering 40.1 percent increase from the previous year bringing the total installed capacity to 3,319 MW, which powers almost 1 million homes or 1.1 percent of Canada's total electricity demand. It is also the first time that wind developments are operating in every province (source: CANWEA).

Opportunities for U.S. Companies

According to TransAlta, a general contractor has not yet been selected for the Kent Hills expansion project. The expansion will generate a range of opportunities for sub contractors, who will be required to supply various products and services. Besides the main equipment, (wind turbines and generators), the project requires an upgrade of the electrical system, including connections to the grid. A variety of cables, switchgear, and other electrical equipment and materials will be also necessary.

During the past six years Canada's total wind energy facilities grew more than 10 times. As New Brunswick continues to develop its wind energy sector, there will be increased demand for wind turbine components such as rotor blades, base frames, nacelle covers and spinners, flexible drive shafts, disk brakes, vibration mounts, inverters, control cabinets, generators, etc.

The Kent Hills project press release is available at: [TransAlta Newsroom website](#)
NB information release is available at: [Government of NB News Release](#)
TransAlta contacts and company information are available at: [TransAlta website](#)
Further information on New Brunswick Power is available at: [NB Power website](#)
Canadian wind projects listing is available at: [CanWEA website](#)
Canadian wind power sector overview is available at: [Industry Canada-Wind Power website](#)
New Brunswick wind energy overview is available at: [NB Renewable Energy Sources](#)

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